

Play Your Position

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

SETTING THE SCENE:

A QUICK DEFINITION:

A Spiritual Gift is – A God-given **ability** to serve **others**.

HOW SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORK:

Just because something is **supernatural** doesn't mean it's from **God**.
1 Corinthians 12:1-3, 1 John 4:1-3

God gives different **gifts** to different **people** for the common **good**.
1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Once we have a **gift**, we now have a **position to play**.
1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 2:10

So find your **gift and use it**.

1. DO **SOMETHING**
2. FOLLOW YOUR **PASSIONS**
3. FOLLOW YOUR **SUCCESSSES**

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1 Peter 4:10-11, Ephesians 4:11-13

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 15, 2009

QUICK REVIEW

This weekend we looked at the importance of "Playing Your Position." Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Have you ever known someone who thought they should play a certain position or fill a role, when they were actually far better fit for a different position or role? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?

2. What's your response to someone telling you, "You have an essential role you need to play for our ministry and the team to win"? (*circle any that apply*)

Great	Stick with it
Confused	I need to find my position
Not me	Other

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard how as followers of Christ we all have a unique position to play on God's team. 2 Corinthians 12:12-26 gives further details and insights into how an effective team functions. As you read this passage, what are some of the things that catch your attention in regards to the various roles we play?

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. [13] For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

[14] Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? [18] But in fact God has arranged the parts in the

body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. [19] If they were all one part, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

[21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" [22] On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, [24] while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, [25] so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. [NIV]

Can you think of ways you've benefited from others playing their role?

Can you think of any examples of how the team (aka the body of believers) might be hindered when someone isn't willing to play their role?

2. At times it can be confusing to distinguish between God's part and our part in the use and development of our spiritual gift(s). How do the following verses help work through this balance?

1 Corinthians 1:6-9

because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. [7] Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. [8] He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. [NIV]

Matthew 20:27-28

and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- [28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." [NIV]

Ephesians 6:7-8

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, [8] because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. [NIV]

3. None of us want to be categorized as someone who failed to fulfill their role or was too self-absorbed to serve others. Yet all of us can, at times, lack the motivation to get involved or sense that we really do make a difference. How might the following verses motivate us to stay in the game and play our role?

Matthew 25:37-40

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? [38] When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? [39] When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

[40] "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' [NIV]

2 Thessalonians 3:6

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. [NIV]

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

4. When it comes to finding and playing our position, what are some of the potential roadblocks that can keep us on the sidelines?

- Don't think about it
- Feels like I'm a servant
- Pressure of your own responsibilities
- Past hurt
- My own success
- Not sure how to
- Other: _____

TAKING IT HOME

Is there anything specific you sense God calling you to start doing now as a result of this weekend's teaching and study?

One of the key ways to find your position to play is to jump in and start serving. Below is just a sampling of the many ministries within the church where you could use your abilities. Are there any new service opportunities that you need to consider (or reconsider) as a result of this weekend's teaching?

- ⇒ Nursery or Children's Ministries
- ⇒ Student Ministries
- ⇒ Adult Ministries / Growth Groups / Venue Hosts
- ⇒ Care & Concern Ministry
- ⇒ Connections & New Visitor Ministry
- ⇒ Prayer Team
- ⇒ Tech., Facilities, Administrative Ministries
- ⇒ Shuttle & Parking Ministry
- ⇒ Community Service
(Check out: www.northcoastchurch.com/service)